

**Robert J. Kleberg Public Library Newsletter**  
**Happenings @ your library®**  
**Friday, March 18, 2013**



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**Library Celebrates the Birthday of Dr. Seuss**

Saturday, March 2, marked the birthday of the popular children's author, Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known to the world as Dr. Seuss. The library celebrated with two special story times in his honor. On Thursday, February 28, the toddlers heard Dr. Seuss stories and created their very own *Cat in the Hat* headgear. On Saturday, March 2, children gathered in the children's area again for more Dr. Seuss and friends stories. Several children wore their *Cat in the Hat* creations, including some who had not been to toddler time, but had made hats in school. All in attendance, including parents, shared many smiles and laughs at these two fun events.

**Toddler Story Time Expands with Action Songs and Nursery Rhymes**

The library's Toddler Story Time on Thursdays has been focusing lately on nursery rhymes. Numerous research studies have shown that a child who can recite eight or more nursery rhymes by the age of four is likely to learn to read earlier and be a more consistent reader. However, research has also shown that only 25% of children in the United States can recite eight nursery rhymes when they start kindergarten. Nursery rhymes are a fun way to teach repetition of words and sounds, as well as provide a jump start on memorization. The "sing-song" manner of most rhymes has been shown to help develop the areas of the brain that are later used for reading comprehension. Nursery rhymes are also shown to help with early word recognition when paired with rhymes or stories that the child has already heard. All of this information, combined with the fun of acting out nursery rhyme games and songs, has led the children's librarian to include more nursery rhymes to the library's story times. The library began Toddler Story Time two years ago with singing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" each week, but has recently added several new songs with accompanying hand and body motions. A new addition and particular favorite of the children, parents, and staff is "The Ants Go Marching." The library welcomes all preschool-age children to come visit each Thursday morning at 9:30 for a time of fun and learning.